

## RURAL DEVELOPMENT

101 South Main Street Suite 102, Federal Building Temple, Texas 76501

> Voice: (254) 742-9760 Fax: (254)742-9709 TDD: (254) 742-9712

USDA Rural Development TX AN No. 564 (1930-C)

March 18, 2002

SUBJECT: Wage and Benefit Matching for Multi-Family

Housing (MFH) Program

TO: All Offices

USDA Rural Development, Texas

## PURPOSE/INTENDED OUTCOME:

This Texas Administrative Notice (AN) supplements the National Office's RD AN No. 3647, dated April 17, 2001, to provide guidance to field staff in requesting and processing Wage and Benefit matching requests.

## **COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS AN:**

This AN replaces Texas AN No. 514, which expired June 30, 2000.

## IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITIES:

A Memorandum of Understanding has been executed between USDA Rural Development and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), formerly the Texas Employment Commission, allowing USDA Rural Development to request wage and benefit information from TWC on tenants within our complexes.

In accordance with RD Instruction 1930-C, Exhibit B, VII D (1) and VII F and with AN No. 3290, Local Offices are required to conduct wage and benefit matching each year on at least 10 percent of all units within their jurisdiction. Normally, wage and benefit matching will not exceed a 20 percent level. Verification of income is encouraged for initial tenant certifications of persons moving into the complex for the first time and will be counted as part of the 10-20 percent. Wage and benefit matching should also be performed on Labor Housing residents whose eligibility or receipt of subsidy is determined in whole or part on wage or benefit data.

EXPIRATION DATE: February 28, 2003

FILING INSTRUCTION: Following RD Instruction 1930-C In cases where USDA Rural Development is advised of suspected or confirmed falsification of income by a borrower or management agent, a wage and benefit matching request should immediately be prepared and sent to the State Office. Should the verification of income reveal that tenant household income exceeds the amount shown on the tenant certification form, the local office will inform the borrower or management agent in writing using Attachment A. These discrepancies may be pursued as available resources and as priorities permit. When it appears unauthorized rental assistance has been provided to a tenant, the steps outlined in RD Instruction 1930-C, Exhibit B, VII F (v-vii) and RD Instruction 1951-N, should be followed in pursuing collection.

Income or improper assistance received by either a borrower or a tenant will be serviced in accordance with the provisions of RD Instruction 1951-N. Any recovery efforts must not begin without first having been assured that tenants have had the opportunity to review the accuracy of the information and appeal any disagreements in accordance with the provisions of RD Instructions 1944-L or 1951-N.

Requests for income verification relating to a supervisory visit, should be submitted at least three or four weeks prior to the scheduled supervisory visit. This will allow sufficient time for processing the requests. All wage information is confidential and is to be used only by USDA Rural

Development employees. This information may be shared with the borrower or management agent by informing them that our verification process has shown that the tenant income exceeds that shown on their tenant certification form. The actual report furnished by TWC is for our records only and should not be furnished to the borrower or management agent for their use.

All requests should be submitted in writing to the State Office. Each request must contain the name of the project and the name, apartment number and social security number for each individual requested. The requests should be submitted to Julie Hayes, Community Facilities/ Multi-Family Housing Program Technician, either by e-mail at julie.hayes@tx.usda.gov, or by fax at (254) 742-9754.

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Hayes, Community Facilities/Multi-Family Housing Program Technician, in the State Office.

/s/Bryan Daniel

BRYAN DANIEL State Director